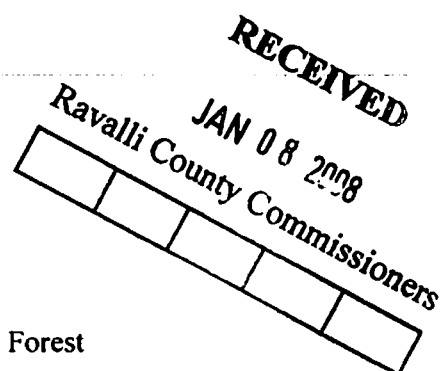


Glenda Wiles

From: Damien Powledge [damien.powledge@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2008 11:41 AM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: Lost Horse Canyon
Attachments: Lost Horse Canyon.doc



Lost Horse Canyon in The Bitterroot National Forest

Regretfully, I will be unable to attend the County Commissioners meeting this coming January 11th 2008 regarding the Lost Horse Quarry Proposal. I am currently in Virginia helping family and will not be back in Montana until early February 2008. It pains me to know that the final vote will be made and I cannot physically show my presence for this issue. Therefore I am writing you all to express my view on the subject and state that I am bothered by the actions taken so far by the county and the Forest Service on this issue. I do not believe that all impacts to land users and the environment have been truthfully analyzed or released to the public, including actual costs of similar quarry material from existing sites from neighboring areas. It is my sincere hope that before votes are cast this Friday, that all voters take a very close look at the overall impact of this situation.

When I first moved to Missoula years ago Lost Horse Canyon was one the very first places I visited. I was instantly amazed by how such a beautiful area it was, and how simple it was to access. Over the years Lost Horse Canyon has become a second home to me – whether a day-trip or an overnigher with car-camping luxury, it is always a great time. I write this letter with great concern as I ponder the proposed re-opening of the Lost Horse Quarry. For years now Lost Horse Canyon has been a sanctuary for myself, and many others, full of silence, wild animals, swimming, and amazing rock climbing. I view Lost Horse Canyon as a great asset to the people of Montana and I am worried that a canyon that so many people love – is in jeopardy of facing irreparable damage. The Bitterroot is facing a new era – a steady influx of people attracted to its' beauty and fast development. I understand the need for development, and the resources required to fuel it. However, I believe that the hunters, climbers, backpackers, and many other users of Lost Horse Canyon are far more valuable resources for the Bitterroot community than a gravel quarry. I find it hard to believe that re-opening the Lost Horse Quarry is the only option to meet our demand for resources. Lost Horse Canyon to me, and many others, represents access to: world-class rock climbing that draws people in from all over Montana and even out-of-state, a beautiful area full of wildlife and silence, a wonderful access point to get deep into the Bitterroot-Selway Wilderness, hunting and fishing, and wonderful car-camping for families and people of all physical abilities. Over the past several years I have used Lost Horse Canyon as one of my primary climbing areas. I can say that there is no other place like it yet discovered in Montana, and that it is a truly unique paradise that fuels the soul of so many people who treat the area with the respect in which it deserves. I hope to see Lost Horse Canyon protected from the destructive nature of an operating quarry. It saddens me, and many others, to think of such a magical place being subjected to noise pollution, environmental pollution, wildlife habitat destruction, access closures, and the overall contamination of such a unique Montana Treasure. Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Damien C. Powledge

1/8/2008